

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Figure 4 has been amended and formal Figure 5 has been added. No claims have been added. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice to filing in a later application. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 have been amended. After entry of this amendment claims 1-2 and 4-20 will be pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-20 contain patentable subject matter.

The objection to the drawings.

The Office Communication objected to the drawings under 35 C.F.R. 1.83(a). More particularly, the objection asserted that the underwire was not shown in the figures. Applicants point to, for example, Figure 3, element 32 as one place in the figures where the underwire is shown.

The Office Communication also indicated that the bra and the bust cup as claimed in claim 20 were not shown. New Figure 5 illustrates a portion of a bra comprising a bust cup and a bra-sheath. Proposed new Figure 5 is supported by the application at, for example, page 1, lines 1-11 and claim 20 as filed.

The Office Communication indicated that it was not clear as to whether the depiction of the two pieces of elastic nylon thread and two pieces of fusible thread in alternating are shown in the drawings. Figure 4 has been amended more clearly indicates this feature.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The Office Communication rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. More particularly, the Office Communication asserted that in claim 1 it is not clear as to what the textile in regard to the sheath body actually encompasses. Woven textiles for use in clothing are

well known. However, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the composition of the sheath body and is in condition to overcome this rejection.

Claim 2 was rejected because it was allegedly not clear as to how the trough forms gaps with the sheath body. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that there is a gap between the two rows of lugs. Claim 2 is in condition to overcome this rejection.

Claim 3 was rejected because it was allegedly not clear as to how the liner is formed by extending the sheath body outwards. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice to filing in a later application so that this rejection is obviated.

Claim 4 was rejected because it was allegedly unclear as to what the superficial layer comprises. Claim 4 has been amended to clarify the composition of the sheath-body and is in condition to overcome this rejection.

Claim 6 was rejected because it was not clear as to whether the specification provides support for the warp threads being comprised of two pieces of elastic nylon thread and two pieces of heat fusible thread in alternating order. This feature is supported by the specification at page 5, lines 15-22 and by amended Figure 4. Claim 6 is in condition to overcome this rejection.

Claims 11 and 20 were rejected because it was allegedly unclear as to whether the sheath and the sheath body are the same component and as to how the opposing edges of the sheath body form the tunnel. Claim 11 recites, in one pertinent part, that a tunnel is defined "between the liner inner surface and the sheath-body". This appears to be in compliance with the Examiner's understanding as indicated on page 4 of the Office Communication that the tunnel is formed between the liner inner surface and the sheath body inner surface. Opposing edges of the sheath-body attach the sheath-body to the liner inner surface. Applicants also point out that, as disclosed in claim 11, the bra sheath is comprised of a number of components, including a sheath-body. Claim 11 is in condition to overcome this rejection.

Claim 20 was rejected because it was allegedly not clear as to how the softness layer is formed by the woven threads of the liner and as to how the softness layer is secured along a lower portion of the bust cup. In one embodiment, the warp and web

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threads of the liner are woven to produce a plush softness layer 36, this softness layer has an exterior surface 42 and is secured along the lower portion of the bust cup as shown in Figure 5.

Claims 7 and 10 were rejected because it was allegedly not clear that the "fine hair claimed" had been clearly described in the specification. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended to remove this feature and are in condition to overcome this rejection.

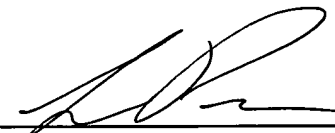
In summary, Applicants have addressed each of the objections and rejections within the present Office Action. It is believed the application now stands in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures (Figures 4 and 5)

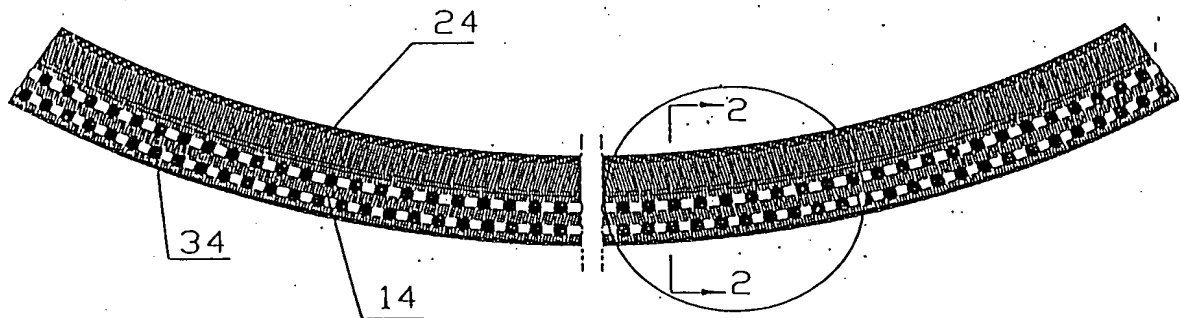


Figure 1

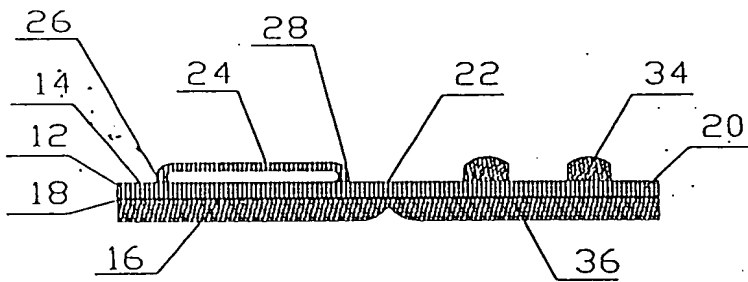


Figure 2

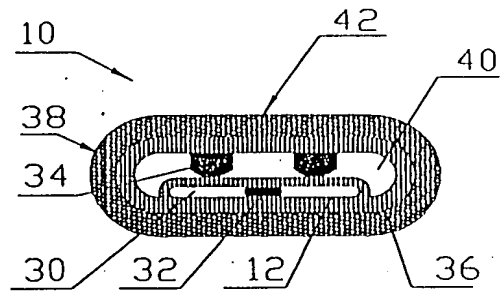


Figure 3

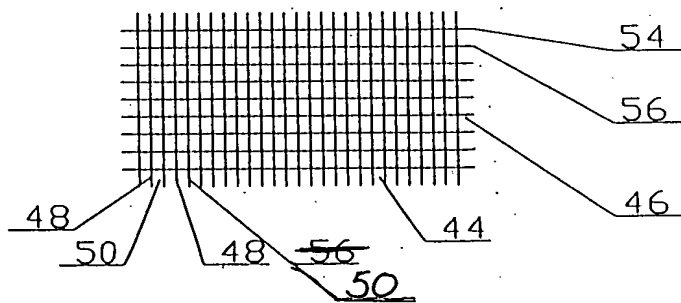


Figure 4